

I am writing because I am very concerned about NPRM 02-33. Broadband internet access MUST NOT be treated as an "information service". The citizens of this country who use the internet are not merely a bunch of passive consumers, content to receive whatever "content" corporate America decides to serve up. We are an enormous community of intelligent, communicating peers, who use the internet in a multiplicity of ways. When we connect, we want access; we do not want to be told how we should best use that access. NPRM 02-33 is a step backwards in that it will stifle innovation, and eventually will merely serve to allow the manner in which the internet is used to be dictated by petty commercial interests. It would be a great tragedy to allow broadband internet access to become what cable TV has become; a vast wasteland of substandard, unimaginative "programming", the content of which only a tiny few have any control over. The potential of the internet is vast. There can be as many variations in its usage as there are people on this earth. Please allow for this potential by not rashly placing limits on how common citizens' access is defined.

Furthermore, any discussion of this proposal in terms of "regulation versus deregulation" is a diversion from the true effect that this proposed classification would have. The internet is a two-way medium. It is not, nor should it ever become, a one-way delivery system for commercial "product". This intention may not be spelled out in the current proposal, but it is a very real potential consequence of the paradigm shift that is embedded in NPRM 02-33. Defining the internet as an "information service" would only serve to protect the selfish business models of a few powerful media interests, at the expense of the freedoms that ordinary citizens have up to this point used in such an astonishingly innovative and empowering fashion.

PLEASE do not go through with NPRM 02-33.

Christopher S. Johnson